

C l a i m s

5

1. Method for managing a packet switched, centralized conference call between a plurality of terminals (13), said method comprising at a conference call server (12):

10

receiving data packets from all terminals (13) participating in said conference call, which data packets include either voice data or background noise information as well as an identifier associated to the respective terminal (13)

15

providing said voice data or said background noise information;

determining based on said received data packets at least one terminal (13) currently providing voice data, if any, among said terminals (13)

20

participating in said conference call;

mixing said received voice data and said received background noise information and inserting said mixed data into new data packets together with at least one identifier associated to one of said terminals (13) which were determined to provide currently voice data, if any, such that said at least one identifier can be distinguished from any other information included in said data packets; and

25

30

transmitting said new data packets to terminals (13) participating in said conference call.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein said identifiers associated to said terminals (13) are identifiers associated randomly to said terminals (13) for said conference call, said method comprising as preceding steps receiving at said conference call server (12) control packets from said terminals (13) participating in said conference call, said control packets including a mapping of an identifier associated a respective terminal (13) to an identification of said terminal (13), and forwarding said mapping in control packets from said conference call server (12) to said terminals (13) participating in said conference call.
3. Method according to claim 1, wherein said conference call server (12) transmits in said new data packets exclusively identifiers associated to terminals (13) which were determined to provide voice data.
4. Method according to claim 1, wherein said conference call server (12) includes in said new data packets identifiers associated to terminals (13) currently providing voice data as well as identifiers associated to terminals currently providing background noise information, at least one identifier associated to a terminal (13) which was determined to provide voice data being included in said data packet at a predetermined position among all included identifiers.
5. Method according to claim 1, wherein said conference call server (12) includes in said new data packets

identifiers associated to terminals (13) currently providing voice data as well as identifiers associated to terminals (13) currently providing background noise information, wherein at least one identifier associated to one of said terminals (13) which were determined to provide voice data, if any, is included in said data packets at a predetermined position among all included identifiers, and wherein identifiers associated to terminals (13) which were determined to provide voice data are separated by a marker from included identifiers associated to other terminals (13).

6. Method according to claim 5, wherein said marker corresponds to an identifier associated to said conference call server (12).

7. Method according to claim 1, wherein said conference call is based on the Real-time Transport Protocol (RTP), wherein said data packets are RTP packets, wherein said identifiers associated to said terminals (13) are Synchronization Source (SSRC) identifiers, and wherein said identifiers are included by said conference call server (12) in said new data packets to a field provided in a packet header for a Contributing Source (CSRC) list.

8. Method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving said new data packets transmitted by said conference call server (12) at a terminal (13) participating in said conference call and pointing out an identification (32,33) of at least one

terminal (13) determined to provide voice data to a user based on an identifier included in said received new data packets.

- 5 9. Conference call server (12) comprising means for managing a centralized conference call between a plurality of terminals (13), said means including means (15) for realizing the steps of the method according to claim 1.

10

10. Terminal (13) comprising means for participating in a centralized conference call, said means including

15 means for receiving data packets transmitted by a conference call server (12), which data packets comprise mixed voice data and/or background noise information provided by terminals (13)

20 participating in said conference call and at least one identifier associated to a terminal (13) that was determined in said conference call server (12) to currently provide voice data, if any;

means for recognizing in received data packets identifiers associated to terminals (13) that were determined in a conference call server (12) to currently provide voice data; and

25 means for pointing out to a user an identification of terminals (13) providing voice data based on recognized identifiers associated to terminals (13) that were determined in a conference call server (12) to currently provide
30 voice data.